

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KINSHA 09050 291308Z

43

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 EB-03 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

SP-02 SAM-01 L-01 RSC-01 /045 W

----- 024081

R 291132Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9899

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY CAPETOWN

AMCONSUL LUANDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 9050

LIMDIS

BLANTYRE FOR ASST SEC EASUM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV AO FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH LINE ON CABINDA AND ANGOLA

REF: KINSHASA 8998

1. ANDRE ROSS, FRENCH AMBASSADOR HERE, CAME AROUND FOR PRIVATE DRINK OCT 26 AND INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF ANGOLA AND CABINDA SITUATION. IN COURSE DISCUSSION, I TOLD HIM OF RUMORS WHICH I HAD BEEN HEARING, EXPLAINING THAT I THOUGHT THAT BETWEEN FRIENDS IT WAS WELL TO EXCHANGE SUCH STORIES AND ENDEAVOR CLARIFY ACTUAL FACTS.

2. HE WAS DULY APPRECIATIVE AND FLATLY DENIED FRENCH COMPLICITY IN ANY MACHINATIONS WITH RESPECT EITHER ANGOLA  
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PAGE 02 KINSHA 09050 291308Z

OR CABINDA. AS MATTER OF FACT, HE SAID, HE HAD JUST

RECEIVED TELEGRAM FROM PARIS SENT ALL FRENCH EMBASSIES IN AFRICA WHICH DECLARED FRENCH POLICY WAS ONE OF TOTAL NEUTRALITY AND NON INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLAN PROBLEM. HE AND OTHER FRENCH AMBASSADORS WERE AUTHORIZED TO ASSURE, IF ASKED, AFRICAN CHIEFS OF STATE THAT FRANCE WOULD SCRUPULOUSLY AVOID SUPPORTING ANY AFRICAN PARTY AGAINST ANY OTHER, AND THAT FRENCH VIEW WAS THAT CABINDA AND ANGOLA WERE MATTERS TO BE SETTLED BY PARTIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED. I DID NOT MENTION OIL BUT ROSS WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO SAY THAT HIS INSTRUCTIONS STATED THAT FRENCH GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZED US HAD INTERESTS, E.G., GULF, IN CABINDA. HE ADDED THAT LAST JULY ELF HAD GIVEN WRITTEN ASSURANCES TO GULF THAT IT HAD NO INTEREST IN CABINDA OR CABINDAN OIL. HE SUGGESTED THIS COULD EASILY BE CONFIRMED.

3. ROSS CATEGORIZED WHAT I HAD TOLD HIM AS BEING MALICIOUS GOSSIP WITHOUT BASIS IN FACT EXCEPT POSSIBLY FOR ROLE OF JACQUES FOCCART. HE THOUGHT IT WAS TRUE THAT FOCCART IS NOW ADVISOR TO PRESIDENT BONGO OF GABON BUT HE INSISTED THAT THIS WAS ENTIRELY IN PRIVATE CAPACITY. HE NOTED THAT ONE OF FIRST ACTS OF PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING HAD BEEN TO FIRE FOCCART.

4. REGARDING ANGOLA, ROSS' ANALYSIS SHOWED GREAT FAMILIARITY WITH WHAT IS GOING ON AND SEEMED TO ME TO BE RIGHT ON TARGET. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER CHINESE SUPPORT FOR HOLDEN AND SOVIET INVOLVEMENT BUT OPINED THAT MOSCOW HAD SERIOUSLY MISCALCULATED WITH RESPECT TO NETO AND MIGHT USE MOBUTU'S VISIT TO MOSCOW TO CHANGE ITS POLICY. HE SAID HE THOUGHT MOBUTU WOULD ACT ON CABINDA IF ANGOLA FELL UNDER NETO'S LEADERSHIP OR WENT GENERALLY COMMUNIST OR DETERIORATED INTO CHAOS. HE ALSO EXPLICITLY SAID THAT HE THOUGHT MOBUTU WOULD VIEW ANY CONGO BRAZZAVILLE ATTEMPT TO TAKE OVER CABINDA AS A CASUS BELLI. HE PRAISED MOBUTU'S DIPLOMACY SO FAR BUT THOUGHT SPLITS AMONGST LIBERATION LEADERS, PLOTTING BY REACTIONARY WHITES, LEFTIST TENDENCIES OF ANGOLAN JUNTA, AND THREAT OF COMMUNIST TAKE-OVER IN PORTUGAL ITSELF COMBINED TO RAISE SERIOUS DOUBTS THAT PEACEFUL TRANSITION

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 KINSHA 09050 291308Z

TO INDEPENDENCE WOULD IN FACT OCCUR. HE MENTIONED THAT ATTITUDE AND LOYALTY OF BLACK MILITARY FORMERLY INCORPORATED IN PORTUGUESE ANGOLAN FORCE COULD PROVE TO BE CRITICAL DETERMINANT OF OUTCOME.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**TAGS:** PDEV, AO, FR, (ROSS, ANDRE)  
**To:** STATE  
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